GAY PRIDE

Mayor's proclamation noted by readers

Well, Mary Lou Makepeace. When will you sign a proclamation recognizing a heterosexual pride celebration and maybe a proclamation recognizing bisexual pride celebration?

Honestly, when will you do the job you were elected to do as mayor?

— Elfriede Little
Colorado Springs

EARLIER THIS MONTH, Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace issued a statement proclaiming Aug. 21-29 as PrideFest Week.

In an Aug. 25 Gazette report, Amy Tracy, Focus on the Family spokesperson said that the mayor and city council should have known this would be divisive and controversial, she added this isn't "Love Your Pet Week." She is correct, it's not love your pet week.

Pride Celebrations are about coming together to promote acceptance and understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

A Focus statement contends this proclamation "promotes intolerance and hatred toward ex-gay people and the citizens of faith who morally object to homosexual behavior."

I have read the proclamation and can definitely say it in no way directly or indirectly promotes intolerance and hatred of ex-gays, nor does it compel people of faith to abandon their convictions.

We feel the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community has made substantial progress in Colorado Springs over the last five years. We also believe this has left our detractors thoroughly frustrated and furious.

It seems that our detractors are now condemning our allies instead, hoping to stop all progress in its tracks.

We appreciate the commitment of Mayor Makepeace and our allies who respect and value all of our citizens, not just those deemed worthy by Focus on the Family.

— Ronald K. Eby
President, Board of Directors
Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center
Colorado Springs

dance is at 5 p.m. at
ation, 212 N. Santa Fe
is $4.50 for adults; $3
en and seniors; and
children under age 6.

Bartels retired from the 65-member El Paso County team about a year ago but still assisted on occasion, said Larry Lewis, a spokesman for Lewis said. "Any time he was needed, he showed up."

Bartel's cause of death will be determined by an autopsy, Perschbacher said.

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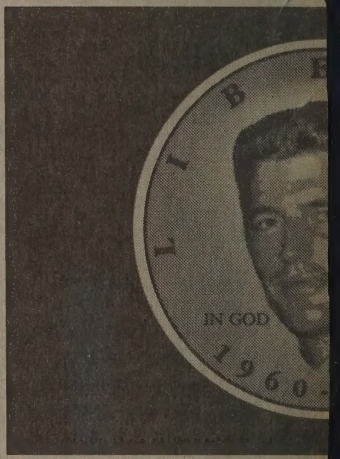

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